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+ FARM AND NONFARM WAGE INCOME OF THE
HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE
IN 1946 *

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This report is based on the results of an enumerative sample survey made in January 1947, with comparisons from a similar survey made in January 1946. In these surveys, information was obtained on the year's work and wage record of each person 14 years old and over who did any farm wage work in the preceding year. This information was obtained from the individual workers, or someone in their households, for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics by the Bureau of the Census to supplement the information on wages and wage rates which the Bureau of Agricultural Economics collects from farmers.

Carl C. Taylor contributed to the formulation of the objectives of this study which was carried out under his general direction. Raymond C. Smith and W. F. Callander also advised in the planning of the study.

FARM AND NONFARM WAGE INCOME OF THE HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE IN 1946

By Louis J. Ducoff and Margaret Jarman Hagood

SUMMARY

Farm wage workers in the United States had an average cash wage income in 1946 of \$521, including \$391 from farm work and \$130 from nonfarm work. This represented cash earnings from an average of 142 days of wage work in 1946, with one-fifth of this time spent at nonfarm work.

Between 1945 and 1946 the average cash wage income from farm work increased from \$287 to \$391. This increase of 36 percent overstates the improvement in the economic position of farm laborers as a group because of shifts in their composition. Several factors accounted for the higher average earnings from farm wage work.

(1) Many of the youths, older men, and women and girls who had entered the hired farm working force because of the wartime situation withdrew from this force after the ending of World War II. These groups had had relatively low daily wages and short periods of employment in 1945 and had thus lowered the average of the yearly wage earnings for all hired farm workers. The number of workers reporting less than 3 months of hired farm work in the year decreased by more than a half million from 1945 to 1946.

(2) These wartime "extra" workers were replaced by a smaller number of young adult male workers—many of them returning veterans—who worked longer periods in the year. Although the total hired farm working force decreased from about 4.2 million different persons in 1945 to 3.5 million in 1946, the number of workers with 6 months or more of hired farm work in the year increased by 8 percent. The average time worked at hired farm work in the year increased by 18 percent, which more than offset the decrease in numbers.

(3) There was a general rise in farm wage rates from 1945 to 1946, and the 1946 force contained a higher proportion of the types of workers that are normally paid higher rates (young adult males). Thus the average daily cash earning from farm work was 15 percent above that in 1945.

In spite of the "strengthening" of the composition of the hired farm working force as it assumed a more nearly normal composition after the ending of World War II, the persons who did this kind of work in 1946 included many who were not full-year workers. Only 40 percent of the farm wage workers in 1946 reported hired farm work as their major activity during the year. The next most important group in numbers were farm operators, who made up 19 percent of the 1946 farm wage workers. Youths whose major activity was school attendance ranked next, with 15 percent, followed closely by persons with nonfarm work as major activity, who were 14 percent. Housewives were 8 percent, and the remaining 4 percent included a miscellaneous group.

Twenty-six percent of the farm wage workers in 1946 also had earnings from nonfarm work. This group, which represents the overlap of the farm and nonfarm labor market, accounted for 18 percent of the hired farm-labor input during the year. About 600,000 workers in the group had no earnings except from wage work (farm and nonfarm) and these workers were divided about equally among those living on farms, in rural-nonfarm areas, and in cities. They averaged higher daily and annual wages than persons who did only farm wage work in 1946.

Women and girls made about 77 percent as much as men in daily cash wages, both in 1945 and 1946. Most women hired farm workers are in the South, where wage levels are relatively low, and women average fewer hours per day worked. Younger men--those aged 18 to 34 years--averaged higher daily wages than men aged 35 to 64 in 1946, whereas in 1945 they averaged lower wages.

INTRODUCTION

There are important features of employment and wage patterns that are not revealed by the standard series on employment and wages which provide information on numbers and wages of workers for a given week or pay period at monthly or quarterly intervals. For any industry, supplementary information is needed on the total number of different individuals employed during the year, the major activity of these individuals, and their annual wage earnings. Likewise it is of interest to know the competitive wage levels in industries that afford alternative employment to individuals who, in the course of a year, shift from one major industry to another--for example, from agriculture to nonfarm work. But in the case of agriculture, supplementary information is especially needed, as the majority of its wage workers spend the greater part of the year in some other occupation or activity.

The importance of an available labor supply that is adequate for peak periods of cultivating or harvesting has long been recognized by growers. Partly because the time of seasonal demands for farm workers varies among crops and areas, the number of hired farm workers used in the course of a year is much larger than the number employed at any given time. No statistics have regularly been developed on the total number of different individuals used for hired farm work in the course of each year. Consequently little is known on how the general demand situation for manpower affects the total number of persons who do hired farm work in the course of a year or the employment and wage-income patterns of the hired farm working force.

Special surveys were made for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in January 1946 and again in January 1947 to supply such information. Results from the first were published about a year ago. The availability of data from a second comparable survey now makes possible, for the first time, an analysis of changes from one year to the next. 1/

1/ The results from the January 1946 survey were published in Employment and Wages of the Hired Farm Working Force in 1945, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, June 1946.

Decrease in Wartime "Extra" Workers.— The total number of different persons who did farm wage work at some time during the year is estimated to have decreased from about 4.2 million in 1945 to 3.5 million in 1946. More detailed information is available on the workers who were 14 years of age and over and living in private households in January of the year following. They numbered 3,212,000 in 1945 and 2,770,000 in 1946. 2/ The changes from 1945 to 1946 are analyzed principally for this group in the following pages.

The shift from the last year of World War II to the first full year of peace caused marked alterations in employment patterns of hired farm workers. A decrease of 14 percent in the number was more than offset by an increase of 18 percent in the average number of days of employment, which increased from 96 days per person in 1945 to 113 days in 1946 (table 1). Thus the aggregate hired labor time input was very slightly higher in 1946 than in 1945, in spite of the marked reduction in the total hired farm working force.

How could this happen? The information on composition of the force in the 2 years indicates that many of the very short-time workers who had done hired farm work for short stretches in wartime were replaced by veterans and others who returned to farm work after the war. For example, there was an increase of more than 200,000 in World War II veterans in this work which more than offset the 22-percent decrease in female workers (table 2).

The pattern of change among males in different age groups documents the "strengthening" of the composition of the force. At the extremes of the age range, boys 14 and 15 years old and men 65 years old and over each decreased by 26 percent, from 1945 to 1946. Decreases were progressively smaller from each extreme to the 18 to 24 age group, which actually increased by 25 percent.

The reduction of wartime workers who would normally not have been working on farms for wages took place mainly among farm residents. Although special recruiting efforts, that brought town and city residents to work on farms in wartime, received considerable publicity, the figures indicate that actually the youngsters, women, and older men who left the hired farm working force when the war was over were mainly from farm families. An actual increase in the number of urban residents who reported farm wage work in 1946 may reflect partly the need for second or third members of urban families to find work because the take-home pay of the leading breadwinner of the family was less when overtime work was eliminated. This increase may also reflect partly other adjustments in the labor market as returning veterans were reemployed.

Very short-time seasonal workers--those with less than 3 months of employment at hired farm work during the year--decreased by more than a half-million between 1945 and 1946, a reduction of about one-fourth (table 3). Intermediate workers--those with from 3 to 6 or 7 months (150 days) of hired farm work stayed

2/ Excluding children under 14 years of age, prisoners of war and imported foreign workers used on farms, persons who entered the armed forces or died during the year, persons in institutions, and some migratory workers. See Appendix for estimates of the size of the excluded groups. It should be noted that these estimates are based on sample surveys and are therefore subject to sampling error.

about the same in number. Workers reporting 150 days or more of hired farm work increased by 8 percent.

Thus the effect here of the shift from war to peace was to diminish the hired farm working force in numbers, to strengthen its composition, and to lengthen the average periods of employment. The 1946 workers--with longer periods of employment and somewhat higher farm wage rates--had average cash-wage incomes from farm work that were more than a third greater than the average for the 1945 workers.

Major Activity of Farm Wage Workers.-- Even though the changed situation eliminated from the force of 1946 many of the wartime "extra" workers, the 2,770,000 persons 14 years of age and over who reported some farm wage work in 1946 were far from a full-time agricultural wage working force. For only 40 percent was farm wage work the major activity during the year (table 4). An additional 19 percent (534,000) reported that they operated a farm during 1946 and for most of these, hired farm work was secondary to the operation of their own farms. The next largest group of the farm wage workers, 15 percent, named school attendance as their major activity in 1946, followed closely by persons with nonfarm work as a major activity, who made up 14 percent of the hired farm working force. Women who considered their own home housework as their major activity accounted for 8 percent of the total, and the remaining 4 percent were a mixture of older persons and other miscellaneous groups. It is from the above groups, for whom farm wage work is not the major activity during the year, that most of the seasonal workers are hired.

The importance of these several groups to agriculture is not fully revealed by their mere numbers, as the average time input was quite different among the several groups. For example, 33 percent of the workers reported that farm wage work was their major activity and that this was the only kind of work they had done in 1946. However, this 33 percent of the workers, who included most of the regular hired hands, accounted for 60 percent of the total time worked at hired farm work during the year. In contrast, the school youths, the housewives, and the miscellaneous group--that together made up 27 percent of all the workers--accounted for only 10 percent of the days of hired farm labor. They were used mainly in seasonal rush jobs. Persons who reported both farm wage work and nonfarm work (including those for whom nonfarm work was the primary and the secondary activity during the year) were 21 percent of all farm wage workers and accounted for 18 percent of the hired farm work done.

Similar information is not available for 1945, to allow comparisons. The closest approximation is the percentage composition of the year's hired farm working force according to employment status in the following January. Comparisons for 1945 and 1946 do not reveal significant changes (table 5). For 1946, farm wage workers, persons in school, and those unemployed, made up slightly larger percentages than for 1945, while self-employed workers in agriculture made up a smaller percentage. Other groups remained of the same relative importance in 1946 as in 1945. However, these data relate only to the status of the workers in 1 week in midwinter, and are not based on the record of activity for the entire year as are the figures in table 6.

Wage Differentials in Relation to Employment Patterns.— Average daily earnings and average annual wages differ for groups of farm wage workers classified according to major activity and type of employment during the year. The 911,000 workers shown in table 4, who reported farm wage work as their major activity during the year and no other type of employment, averaged \$3.40 per day and \$694 per year in cash farm wages, with an average of 205 days of hired farm work in 1946 (table 6). Especial interest attaches to this group, as it represents the core of "bona fide" hired farm laborers who depend wholly on wage earnings from agriculture. The average cash farm wages of \$3.40 per day of this group are somewhat lower than those for the other three groups who reported working as their major activity during the year—\$3.55 for farm operators while working on other farms for wages, \$3.85 for workers who did nonfarm work as a minor activity, and \$4.10 for those with nonfarm work as the major activity.

At first sight, the lower average cash daily wages of the workers with farm wage work as their major activity and their sole employment in a year suggest that farmers pay higher rates to bring in workers from other employment when their needs for labor increase. This is doubtless true, but on the other hand, information from other recent surveys suggests that the differences in averages for the groups cited above may be just about compensated for by the higher value of goods and services furnished without charge by the farm operators to the group including the year-round workers. In May 1945, a survey showed that regular hired farm workers averaged \$1.02 per day in value of perquisites, compared with only \$0.36 for seasonal workers. ^{3/} The classes being compared do not consist wholly of regular workers on the one hand and seasonal on the other, but the maximum difference of 70 cents a day in cash wages could easily be accounted for in terms of perquisites.

Among the groups of farm wage workers who reported working as their major activity in 1945, there are no significant differences in the daily cash wages received from nonfarm work—each group averaged about \$4.75 per day (table 6).

On an annual basis, farm wage workers whose major activity was working averaged a little more than 200 days of wage work a year (excluding farm operators), regardless of whether they did only farm wage work or supplemented farm work with nonfarm work. For persons whose major activity in the year was working, the farm wage workers who do only farm wage work averaged about as full employment in the year 1946 (205 days) as those who supplemented their earnings from nonfarm wage work (208 days). ^{4/} The latter group got somewhat higher annual cash wages—\$821 to \$967 compared with \$694 for those without nonfarm work—although the differences may be largely or wholly compensated for by higher value of perquisites to the group including year-round workers.

The difference just discussed related only to those persons whose principal activity during 1946 was working. Much lower wages, farm and nonfarm, daily and yearly, were received by persons whose major activities were attending school or keeping house. Average daily wages for these groups were between \$2 and \$3, and average annual wage earnings only \$130 to \$140.

^{3/} See Report Number 18 in the Series, Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Dec. 1946.

^{4/} This equalization in amount of employment would undoubtedly not be characteristic of years when general employment conditions were not at so high a level as in 1946.

Overlap of Farm and Nonfarm Labor Markets.-- The farm and nonfarm labor markets overlap more than is indicated in table 4, which showed 205,000 persons with farm wage work as major activity who also did nonfarm work, and 384,000 with nonfarm work as major activity who also did farm wage work. To this 589,000 must be added some from those among farm operators and some from those whose major activity in the year was in a nonworker status to get total number of persons who do both nonfarm work and farm wage work in the course of a year.

The size of several groups according to the type or types of employment during 1946 is shown in table 7, without regard to principal activity during the year. For example, the group of 911,000 persons with farm wage work as major and only gainful activity in 1946 (table 4) is increased to 1,564,000 persons (table 7), by the addition of 653,000 persons who did only farm wage work but whose major activity that year was in some nonworker status. Similarly the group of 589,000 is increased to 728,000 as the total of those reporting both farm wage work and nonfarm work, regardless of principal activity. This group constituted 26 percent of the hired labor force in 1946 that, in January 1947, was 14 years of age and over and was in the civilian noninstitutional population.

The existence of this overlap in labor markets is of far greater importance for agriculture, as it has more than a fourth of its wage earners involved, than it is for nonagricultural industry, as probably not more than about 2 percent of its employees are affected, although no estimate is available of the total number of persons who worked for wages in nonagriculture in the year. Before examining more closely the wage-income and employment patterns of this group, 128,000 were removed as they reported some self-employment, farm or nonfarm or both.

The average time input and wages earned at farm and nonfarm work are shown for the remaining 600,000 farm and nonfarm wage workers in the second line of table 8. The group as a whole averaged daily cash wages (farm and nonfarm combined) 25 percent higher than the group of 1,564,000 (first line of table 8) who did only farm-wage work during the year. But they averaged 38 percent more days of wage work, which made their average total cash wage income 72 percent larger. Higher values of perquisites to those doing only farm wage work would not completely offset this difference. But those who did farm-wage work only include a much larger proportion of school youths, housewives, and others who are not in the labor market the year-round and so would be expected to have lower annual earnings.

The 600,000 farm and nonfarm wage workers (without self employment) are divided almost equally into the three residence groups--rural-farm, rural-nonfarm, and urban--in contrast with the residence distribution of persons who did farm-wage work only, as 60 percent of them were living on farms. The daily cash farm wages of the overlap group are slightly lower for those living on farms, while the nonfarm wages are slightly lower for those living in rural-nonfarm areas. When farm and nonfarm wages are combined, rural-farm residents in the overlap group averaged \$4.10 per day, rural-nonfarm averaged \$4.15 per day, while the urban residents got \$4.30. Because the farm residents had fewer days of work in the year, their annual wage income of \$748 was about \$100 lower than that of the other two groups. This difference in annual wage income was probably offset by the higher value of perquisites received. 5/

5/ The report cited in footnote 3 showed that workers living on the farm where they were employed received approximately twice as high value of perquisites as other workers.

Even if a fairly liberal allowance is made for the nonmoney wages (perquisites) of these 600,000 workers, their average earned income in 1946 probably did not exceed \$1,000. The workers who shift back and forth from farm labor to nonfarm work during the course of a year appear to get only the lowest paid kinds of nonfarm work. Their nonfarm daily wages are higher than their daily cash farm wages, and these in turn are somewhat higher than the average for other farm wage workers, but the overlap group is definitely a low-wage group in comparison with industrial workers generally. It is very likely that the presence of 600,000 or more low-paid workers, who shift back and forth from industry to agriculture, depresses the levels of wages in the unskilled nonfarm jobs.

Shifts in Distribution of Farm Wage Workers by Wage Income.— The distribution of farm wage workers by cash wages earned at farm work during the year showed a marked upward shift from 1945 to 1946. The mean farm-wage income rose from \$287 to \$391, an increase of 36 percent. This rise can lead to very erroneous conclusions as to improvement in the income position of hired farm workers. An examination is necessary of the change in the distribution of hired workers by farm-wage income in the light of the information already presented on the changes in their numbers, composition, and duration of employment.

The sharp reduction in very short-time farm wage workers from 1945 to 1946 was very influential in the upward shift in distribution of workers by farm wage income. Among males, the percentage earning less than \$25 in cash wages from farm work dropped from 14 to 5 percent, and among females it dropped from 30 to 18 percent (table 9). Very short-time workers were by no means eliminated, however; 26 percent of the males and 37 percent of the females had total farm wages between \$25 and \$100 during 1946.

In the relatively higher brackets, the number of female wage workers is almost negligible. Among males, 16 percent had cash farm wage earnings in 1946 of \$1,000 or more, compared with only 10 percent in 1945. This represented an increase from 1945 to 1946 of approximately 100,000 in the number of males with farm wage earnings of \$1,000 or more. A substantial part of this shift could be accounted for by the fact that males with 150 days or more of hired farm work increased by about 70,000 between 1945 and 1946. The remainder of the shift was due to the rise in farm wage levels.

For two reasons these distributions by farm-wage income are not satisfactory approximations to the distributions of individuals by total income. Among the 2,770,000 farm wage workers are included about 600,000 persons with earnings from self employment and another 600,000 with wage or salary income from nonfarm work.

In table 10, these two limitations are overcome by eliminating the farm wage workers who had income from self employment, and by showing the distributions according to total cash-wage income from farm and nonfarm work combined. The tabulation is further restricted to males in order to have a more homogeneous group. The distributions are shown separately for males reporting farm wage work only and for those with both farm and nonfarm wage income. In each case there is a concentration of workers in both the higher income groups and in the lower. This appears to be associated with the fact that both part-year and full-year workers are included. In the "overlap" group, the availability of supplementary nonfarm work to those who can get only short periods of hired farm employment in the year tends to make for a more equal income distribution than in the case of those dependent wholly on farm wage employment for their income.

Shifts in Wage Differentials, 1945-46.-- Some of the differences in rates of pay for workers classified according to age, sex, and duration of hired work in the year persisted from 1945 to 1946. Others appear to have shifted owing to the altered manpower situation in 1946.

Female workers, on an average, made 77 percent as much per day spent in hired farm work as male workers in both years (table 12). This does not necessarily mean that women and girls were paid lower rates than men and boys doing the same kind of farm work in the same areas. The lower cash daily farm wages of women and girls is due largely to the fact that they are more heavily concentrated than male workers in the South, where farm wages are generally lower than in other regions.

When male workers are classified according to the time spent at hired farm work during the year, it is clear that those with shorter periods of such work averaged higher daily cash wages than those employed for longer periods. But the differences were much smaller in 1946 than in 1945. This suggests that the farm manpower situation was somewhat eased in 1946, compared with 1945, and that farmers did not have to pay short-time seasonal workers as much beyond rates paid to regular workers as they did in 1945. On the other hand, year-round workers appeared to be paid relatively better in 1946 than in 1945. The figures in table 12 suggest that farmers who had lost their year-round workers during the war were stepping up their rates for such workers as they became available after the end of the war. In many cases, these workers (veterans or nonveterans) were sons or other relatives of the employing farmer who had returned to the farm and their somewhat higher wages stem from the desire on the part of the farmer to keep them on the farm.

The pattern of farm-wage differences among male hired workers showed an interesting shift. At the ends of the age range, the differences remained the same as in 1945; boys 14 to 17 years old made about 70 percent as much as the average for all males, and men 65 years old and older made about 80 percent as much in both 1945 and 1946. But between the ages of 18 and 65, the pattern changed in favor of the younger men. The group with peak earnings in 1945 was the 35- to 44-year-olds, but in 1946 it was the 25- to 34-year-olds. Those 18 to 24 years of age were closer to the average for all males in 1946 than in 1945, while men aged 35 to 64 lost some of the relative advantage they had had in 1945.

To summarize, men aged 18 to 34 years were paid higher wages--in relation to the average for all males--in 1946 than in 1945. The young men 18 to 34 years of age made 4 percent higher average daily cash wages than men 35 to 64 in 1946, whereas they had made 10 percent lower in 1945. This improvement in relative bargaining power of men of military age occurred in the same period when millions of men in these age groups were being released to civilian life from the armed forces. Two factors may have influenced this change. In 1945, the relative bargaining power of men of military age who had agricultural deferments was probably reduced below normal, for if such workers left their farm jobs their deferments were subject to cancellation. In 1946, this limitation was largely removed. Then, too, in 1946, farmers may have wished to attract able-bodied younger men to regular farm jobs, or to retain their sons on the farm, after their experience during 4 years in having to make out with substitute "extra" workers.

Table 1.--Numbers of different persons who worked on farms for wages, days worked at hired farm work and cash wages received for farm work, by sex of worker, 1945 and 1946 ^{1/}

Item and sex of worker	Unit	1945	1946	Change 1945 to 1946	
				Amount	Percent
Farm wage workers covered by					
survey definitions 1/	(Thousands)	3,212	2,770	-442	-14
Males	(Thousands)	2,375	2,120	-255	-11
Females	(Thousands)	837	650	-187	-22
Days of hired farm work performed					
Average days per person -					
Both sexes	(Days)	96	113	+17	+18
Males	(Days)	116	132	+16	+14
Females	(Days)	40	51	+11	+28
Aggregate days worked -					
Both sexes	(Millions)	310	313	+3	+1
Males	(Millions)	276	280	+4	+1
Females	(Millions)	34	33	-1	-3
Cash wages for hired farm work					
Average per day worked -					
Both sexes	(Dollars)	3.00	3.45	+.45	+15
Males	(Dollars)	3.05	3.55	+.50	+16
Females	(Dollars)	2.35	2.75	+.40	+17
Average per worker in year -					
Both sexes	(Dollars)	287	391	+104	+36
Males	(Dollars)	356	469	+113	+32
Females	(Dollars)	94	139	+45	+48

^{1/} For both years surveys covered persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January following the year to which the data relate. For estimates of the size of the excluded groups, see the Appendix.

Table 2.—Numbers of different persons who worked on farms for wages, by sex and veteran's status, by residence, and by age for males, 1945 and 1946 ^{1/}

Sex, veteran's status, and residence in January of following year, and by age for males	1945	1946	Change 1945 to 1946	
			Number	Percent
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Total farm wage workers	3,212	2,770	-442	-14
Male	2,375	2,120	-255	-11
Veterans (World War II)	157	368	+211	+134
Nonveterans	2,218	1,752	-466	-21
Female	837	650	-187	-22
<hr/>				
Total farm wage workers	3,212	2,770	-442	-14
Rural-farm	2,228	1,637	-591	-27
Rural-nonfarm	623	565	-58	-9
Urban	361	568	+207	+57
<hr/>				
Male farm wage workers	2,375	2,120	-255	-11
14 -15 years	249	184	-65	-26
16 - 17	214	207	-7	-3
18 - 24	322	401	+79	+25
25 - 34	428	414	-14	-3
35 - 44	416	332	-84	-20
45 - 64	564	448	-116	-21
65 and over	182	134	-48	-26

^{1/} For both years estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January following the year to which the data relate.

Table 3.—Numbers of different persons who worked on farms for wages, by days worked at hired farm work during year, by sex, 1945 and 1946 ^{1/}

Days worked at hired farm wage work during year	1945	1946	Change 1945 to 1946	
			Number	Percent
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Total — both sexes	3,212	2,770	-442	-14
Under 25 days	1,247	817	-430	-34
25 — 74	825	749	-76	-9
75 — 149	339	340	+1	-
150 — 249	262	312	+50	+19
250 and over	539	552	+13	+2
Males	2,375	2,120	-255	-11
Under 25 days	799	536	-263	-33
25 — 74	555	529	-26	-5
75 — 149	273	238	-35	-13
150 — 249	209	276	+67	+32
250 and over	539	541	+2	-
Females	837	650	-187	-22
Under 25 days	448	281	-167	-37
25 — 74	270	220	-50	-19
75 — 149	66	102	+36	+55
150 and over	53	47	-6	-11

^{1/} For both years estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January following the year to which the data relate.

Table 4.--Distribution of farm wage workers in 1946, days of hired farm work, and cash farm wages, by major activity in 1946 1/

Major activity in 1946 and type of work reported	:Farm wage workers in 1946:Percentage:Percentage			
	: Number	:Percentage:of days of:		of cash farm
		: of all		:hired farm:wages re-
		:farm wage	:work done	:ceived by
		:workers	:by group	:group
	Thousands	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total farm wage workers	2,770	100	100	100
Farm wage work	1,116	40	69	68
Farm wage work only	911	33	60	58
Some nonfarm work	205	7	9	10
Farm operator <u>2/</u>	534	19	12	13
Nonfarm work	384	14	9	11
Nonworker	736	27	10	8
Own home housework	219	8	3	2
Attending school	401	15	5	4
Other <u>3/</u>	116	4	2	2

1/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1947.

2/ Includes all persons who reported both farm wage work and operation of a farm in 1946 and that farm work was their major activity. A small proportion of these spent more time at hired farm work than in operating their own farms.

3/ Includes those reporting service in the armed forces as their major activity in 1946.

Table 5.-Percentage distribution of persons who worked on farms for wages in 1945 and 1946 by employment status and industry in January of the following year, 1945 and 1946 ^{1/}

Employment status and industry in January of the following year	1945 workers	1946 workers
	Percent	Percent
Total farm wage workers	100	100
In the labor force	71	69
Employed in agriculture	51	47
Wage or salary workers	29	29
Self-employed workers	18	14
Unpaid family workers	4	4
Employed in nonagriculture	18	17
Unemployed	2	5
Not in the labor force	29	31
Own home housework	12	12
In school	10	12
Other	7	7

^{1/} For both years estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January following the year to which the data relate.

Table 6.--Average time worked and wages earned at farm and nonfarm work in 1946, for farm wage workers by major activity in 1946 1/

Major activity in 1946 and type of work reported	All wage or salary work: : in 1946 :		Farm wage work : in 1946 :		Nonfarm wage work : in 1946 :	
	Average cash : days of : wages earned :	Average : Average cash : days of : farm wages :	Average : Average cash : days of : farm wages :	Average : Average cash : days of : nonfarm wages :	Average : Average cash : days of : nonfarm wages :	Average : Average cash : days of : nonfarm wages :
	Number	Dollars	Number	Dollars	Number	Dollars
Total farm wage workers	142	521	113	391	29	130
Farm wage work	204	717	193	664	11	53
Farm wage work only	205	694	205	694	-	-
Some nonfarm work	200	821	139	534	61	287
Farm operator 2/	80	294	73	258	7	36
Nonfarm work	213	967	72	299	141	668
Nonworker	54	158	42	123	12	35
Own home housework	47	130	38	112	9	18
Attending school	54	140	42	110	12	30
Other 3/	65	272	49	187	16	85

1/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1947.

2/ Includes all persons who reported both farm wage work and operation of a farm in 1946 and that farm work was their major activity. A small proportion of these spent more time at hired farm work than in operating their own farms.

3/ Includes those reporting service in the armed forces as their major activity in 1946.

Table 7.--Distribution of farm wage workers and days of farm wage work by type of employment during the year, 1946 ^{1/}

Type of employment during 1946	Farm wage workers	Percentage	Percentage
		of farm wage workers	of days of hired farm work
	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Total farm wage workers	2,770	100	100
Farm wage work only	1,564	57	71
Farm operator	570	20	13
Without nonfarm work	478	17	11
With nonfarm work	92	3	2
Nonfarm work (nonoperator)	636	23	16
<hr/>			
Total with nonfarm work	728	26	18
With self employment	128	5	2
With wage work only	600	21	16

^{1/} Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1947.

Table 8.--Average time worked and wages earned and farm and nonfarm work in 1946 for farm wage workers without self employment, by residence in January 1946 ^{1/}

	All wage or salary work in 1946		Farm wage work in 1946		Nonfarm wage work in 1946	
January 1947 residence and type of work reported for 1946	Number of workers	Average : days of : wage : work : in 1946 :	Average : days of : farm : work : in 1946 :	Average : days of : nonfarm : work : in 1946 :	Average : days of : nonfarm : work : in 1946 :	Average : days of : nonfarm : work : in 1946 :
	Thousands	Number	Dollars	Number	Dollars	Number
<u>All residence groups</u>						
Farm wage workers only	1,564	141	474	141	474	3.35
With nonfarm wage workers	600	194	814	82	311	3.80
						112 503 4.50
<u>Rural-farm</u>						
Farm wage workers only	944	155	467	155	467	3.00
With nonfarm wage workers	216	181	748	87	319	3.65
						94 428 4.55
<u>Rural-nonfarm</u>						
Farm wage workers only	313	131	533	131	533	4.05
With nonfarm wage workers	190	203	844	89	349	3.90
						114 495 4.35
<u>Urban</u>						
Farm wage workers only	307	106	432	106	432	4.05
With nonfarm wage workers	194	199	860	69	266	3.85
						130 594 4.55

^{1/} Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1947.

Table 9.—Distribution of farm wage workers by cash wages earned at farm work during year, by sex, 1945 and 1946 ^{1/}

Cash wages from hired farm work	Both sexes		Males		Females	
	1945	1946	1945	1946	1945	1946
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under \$25	18	7	14	5	30	18
25 - 99	30	29	26	26	41	37
100 - 199	15	18	13	16	18	23
200 - 399	13	14	16	14	7	14
400 - 599	7	8	8	9	3	5
600 - 999	10	11	13	14	1	2
1,000 - 1,399	4	7	5	8	-	1
1,400 - 1,999	2	4	3	6	-	-
2,000 and over	1	2	2	2	-	-

^{1/} For both years estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January following the year to which the data relate.

Table 10.—Distribution of male farm wage workers without self employment by total wage income in 1946, for those reporting farm wage work only and for those reporting both farm and nonfarm wage work 1/

Total wage income in 1946	: All male wage : workers without : self employment :	: Reporting farm : wage work only :	: Reporting farm : and nonfarm : wage work
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100	100
Under \$100	15	21	3
100 - 199	11	12	8
200 - 399	15	13	20
400 - 599	9	9	10
600 - 999	21	19	24
1,000 - 1,399	14	13	15
1,400 - 1,999	11	10	14
2,000 and over	4	3	6

1/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1947.

Table 11.—Distribution of farm wage workers in 1946 who also reported nonfarm wage work and did not have self employment, by days worked in 1946, and for males 1/

Days of wage work in 1946	Both sexes		Males	
	: Total : wage work	: Nonfarm wage : work only	: Total : wage work	: Nonfarm wage : work only
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100	100	100
Under 25 days	2	12	1	13
25 - 74	12	33	11	31
75 - 149	26	25	27	27
150 - 249	23	21	23	20
250 and over	37	9	38	9

1/ Estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January 1947.

Table 12.—Farm wage differentials, selected groups of farm wage workers, 1945 and 1946 ^{1/}

Classification of workers	:	: Daily cash wages			
	:	: Average daily : as percentage of			
	:	: cash farm wages : wages for all			
	:	: males			
	:	1945	1946	1945	1946
		Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent
<u>Days of hired farm work in year</u>					
Total males		3.05	3.55	100	100
Under 25 days		5.00	4.10	164	115
25 - 149		3.55	3.55	116	100
150 - 249		2.85	3.45	93	97
250 and over		2.85	3.55	93	100
Total females		2.35	2.75	77	77
<u>Age for male workers</u>					
14 - 17 years		2.15	2.45	70	69
18 - 19		2.60	3.30	85	93
20 - 24		2.70	3.30	89	93
25 - 34		3.35	4.20	110	118
35 - 44		3.70	3.70	121	104
45 - 64		3.15	3.55	103	100
65 and over		2.45	2.85	80	80
18 - 34		3.05	3.80	100	107
35 - 64		3.40	3.65	111	103
<u>Veteran's status for males 20-34</u>					
Nonveterans		—	3.70	—	104
Veterans (World War II)		—	4.35	—	123

^{1/} For both years estimates relate to persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January following the year to which the data relate.

APPENDIX

Method of Survey.-- The estimates in this report are based on information obtained for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics by the Bureau of the Census in its regular monthly surveys of population and the labor force in January 1946 and January 1947. ^{1/} The surveys were made on national samples of approximately 25,000 households so the estimates are subject to sampling error, especially in classifications that have relatively few individuals. The information on time worked and wages earned during the year is subject to errors in memory.

In addition to the regular questions asked each month by the Bureau of the Census as to personal characteristics, employment status, etc., the questions on the following page were asked for each person 14 years old and over in the households included in the survey, in both urban and rural areas.

Coverage of Survey.-- The surveys obtained information on persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January following the year to which the estimates relate. In addition to such persons, it is estimated that 1 million other persons in 1945 and 750,000 in 1946 did some farm-wage work in the year. These excluded groups were children under 14 years old, prisoners of war, imported foreign workers, persons who entered the armed forces during the year, persons who died during the year, and persons in institutions, as well as some of the migratory farm workers not fully covered by the survey. Rough estimates of the size of each of the excluded groups are given in table 13.

Appraisal of the data.-- Comparisons of the estimates for 1945 with independent data are available in the Appendix to Employment and Wages of the Hired Farm Working Force in 1945, issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in June 1946. These comparisons suggested that the average daily farm wages as reported by hired farm workers or members of their households tend to be somewhat lower than those reported by the employing farmers. For a fuller discussion of the comparisons, see the Appendix of the earlier report.

^{1/} Special acknowledgment is made to Emmett Welch, Gertrude Bancroft, and Marion Grey Foreman of the Bureau of the Census for handling the survey operations and tabulations.

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Table 13.--Estimates of the total number of different persons who worked on farms for wages in 1945 and 1946, United States

Type of worker	: 1945	: 1946
	Thousands	Thousands
Total persons who did farm wage work in year	4,219	3,520
Persons covered in survey 1/	3,219	2,770
Males	2,381	2,120
Females	838	650
Persons excluded by definition of survey coverage 2/	800	500
Children under 14 years of age	400	290
Prisoners of war	130	20
Imported foreign workers	120	80
Persons entering armed forces during year	50	10
Persons who died during year	50	50
Persons in institutions	50	50
Migratory workers not covered in survey 2/	200	250

1/ For both years surveys covered persons 14 years of age and over in the civilian noninstitutional population in January following the year to which the data relate. The figures for 1945 differ slightly from those shown in table 1 and elsewhere because of an adjustment for persons on whom information was not obtained.

2/ For sources of the 1945 estimates, see pp. 39-40 of Employment and Wages of the Hired Farm Working Force in 1945, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, June 1946. Estimates for 1946 were developed similarly.